

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00154 041059Z

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TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IN, PO, US

SUBJECT: SOARES VISIT RESULTS IN INDO-PORTUGUESE TREATY

REF: NEW DELHI 17287

SUMMARY: THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S 6 DAY VISIT TO INDIA CULMINATED IN A TREATY WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE RESUMPTION AND NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE THIN. SOARES HAD TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN WHICH CENTERED ON BILATERAL ISSUES. HE VISITED GOA AND THERE MADE SOME REMARKS ABOUT PORTUGUESE OPPOSITION TO MILITARY EXPANSION IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, BUT HE SPOKE WITHOUT A TEXT AND IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY WHAT HE SAID ON THAT OCCASION.

1. PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO SOARES' SIX-DAY VISIT TO INDIA WAS CAPPED BY THE SIGNING OF A TREATY ON DECEMBER 31 WHICH NORMALIZES RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PORTUGAL. THE TREATY PROVIDES:

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(1) PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION OF INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER

THE FORMER TERRITORIES OF GOA, DAMAN, DIU, AND DADRA AND
NAGAR HAVELI;

(2) IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS;

(3) BILATERAL CLAIMS SETTLEMENTS TO BE NEGOTIATED;

(4) A CULTURAL AGREEMENT TO BE NEGOTIATED;

(5) MUTUAL RETURN OF ARCHIVES.

2. DURING HIS STAY SOARES HAD TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN. THE PORTUGUESE MINISTER ALSO CALLED ON PRESIDENT FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED. SOARES RECEIVED INDIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER BIPINPAL DAS AND FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH. THE MINISTER ALSO VISITED GOA AND BOMBAY AND SPOKE IN NEW DELHI TO THE LEFTIST ALL-INDIA PEACE AND SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION.

3. ACCORDING TO A MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER INVOLVED IN THE VISIT, DEPUTY SECRETARY J.S. DODDAMANI (WEST EUROPE), THE TALKS SOARES HAD WERE LIMITED CHIEFLY TO BILATERAL ISSUES. DODDAMANI SAID THE TREATY WAS NEGOTIATED BY THE INDIAN AND PORTUGUESE PERMREPS AT THE UN, BUT THERE REMAINED CERTAIN LANGUAGE PROBLEMS WHICH WERE COMPLETED IN NEW DELHI. DODDAMANI ALSO REPORTED SOARES WAS ANXIOUS TO DESCRIBE PORTUGAL'S DECOLONIZATION EFFORTS IN AFRICA, AND THE INDIANS WERE PLEASED TO LISTEN TO THAT DESCRIPTION.

4. COMMENTING FURTHER ON THE TREATY, DODDAMANI SAID IT WAS SOARES WHO ASKED THAT THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BE MADE EFFECTIVE ON DECEMBER 31. THE INDIANS HAD ORIGINALLY SUGGESTED THIS BE DELAYED UNTIL THE TREATY IS RATIFIED, BUT THEY ACCEDED TO SOARES' REQUEST SINCE IT SEEMED IMPORTANT TO HIM. THE INDIANS DO NOT BELIEVE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO OPEN A MISSION IN LISBON FOR SOME TIME, BUT IN THE INTERIM THEY ARE WILLING TO RECEIVE A PORTUGUESE TRADE MISSION AND PLAN TO BEGIN WORK ON THE CULTURAL CONVENTION AND CLAIMS SETTLEMENT. FROM THE INDIAN POINT OF VIEW THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT WILL BE LIMITED TO THE APPROVAL OF PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION IN FORMER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 00154 041059Z

PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. DODDAMANI REPORTED SOARES VERY PLEASED WITH THE CONDITION OF PORTUGUESE CHURCHES AND MONUMENTS IN GOA AND CONSEQUENTLY NO LONGER INTERESTED IN PROVIDING FOR THE CARE OF SUCH IN A FORMAL CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING.

5. DODDAMANI SAID THERE WERE NO TEXTS OF ANY OF SOARES' SPEECHES AVAILABLE. THE PORTUGUESE INVARIABLY SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY. WE HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ESTABLISHING

PRECISELY WHAT SOARES TOLD NEWSMEN IN GOA ON DECEMBER 29 WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN MILITARY BASES (REFTEL). CONGEN BOMBAY, WHICH OBTAINED ORIGINAL WIRE SERVICE COPY REPORTING THE REMARKS, STATES THAT ONLY UNI QUOTES SOARES AS SAYING THAT PORTUGAL OPPOSES FOREIGN MILITARY BASES OF "ANY KIND IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD." THE INDIAN EXPRESS DECEMBER 30 ISSUE REPORTS THAT SOARES, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S STAND ON DIEGO GARCIA, SAID THAT PORTUGAL "WAS NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THIS ISSUE, BUT IN PRINCIPLE IT WAS OPPOSED TO MILITARY BUILD-UP IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD." (COMMENT: WE SUSPECT "BUILD-UP" WAS THE WORD TRANSLATED INTO "BASES" IN

THE WIRE SERVICE STORY.)

6. COMMENT: THE MAJOR NEWS ABOUT SOARES' VISIT IS THAT IT TOOK PLACE AND RELATIONS ARE NOW BEING FORMALIZED. ASIDE FROM INDIA'S INTEREST IN INDIAN CITIZENS IN THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN AFRICA (WHICH SOARES SAID WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BY PORTUGAL AND THE AFRICANS) REMNANT CULTURAL CONTACTS REVOLVING AROUND GOA AND ST. FRANCIS XAVIER, AND THE GENERAL POLITICAL QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES WHICH INDIA ENDORSES (AS DID SOARES), RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY TO BE THIN AND THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN SOARES AND INDIAN OFFICIALS APPEAR TO REFLECT THIS. THE MAJOR WESTERN INTEREST IS THAT WHATEVER AMBIGUITIES REMAINED ON US MAPS ABOUT THE STATUS OF GOA AND THE OTHER FORMER PORTUGUESE ENCLAVES CAN NOW BE RESOLVED; THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER CAN NOW VISIT GOA WITHOUT FEAR OF JEOPARDIZING ANGLO-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS; PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES IN INDIA WILL NO LONGER BE IN QUESTION; AND AMERICAN SCHOLARS INTERESTED IN GOA WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 NEW DE 00154 041059Z

EVENTUALLY HAVE TO COME TO INDIA TO LOOK AT ALL ARCHIVES RATHER THAN DIVIDING THEIR TIME BETWEEN INDIA AND PORTUGAL.

7. WE WILL POUCH THE OFFICIAL TREATY AND COMMUNIQUE TEXTS AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE. IMPRESSIONISTIC COMMENTS ON CONVERSATIONS WITH SOARES BY THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR ARE REPORTED IN SEPTTEL.
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